accessing the initial configuration information stored in the memory; and

controlling operations of the transceiver based on the initial configuration information.

18. (Added) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the processor is in a powered-down state during the transmitting and receiving steps.

19. (Added) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein the wireless communication device is unassembled during the transmitting and receiving steps.

20. (Added) A method as set forth in claim 17, wherein said transmitting step comprises transmitting at least one of a network address and a network identification for the wireless communication device.

REMARKS

By the present amendment, claims 17-20 have been added. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 1-20 will be pending in the application. A clean listing of the claims is attached.

Claims 1-16 have been rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,787,174 to Tuttle. The Tuttle invention is concerned with encoding an integrated circuit with a serial number or other identifying number for tracking purposes that can be remotely read by radio frequency communication.[1] To this end, Tuttle provides a conventional integrated circuit package comprising a "main" circuit 2 which performs the primary function that makes the integrated circuit useful, an "ID" circuit which stores an identifying serial number, and a radio frequency (RF) transceiver circuit which transmits

1. In this manner, law enforcement personnel can more easily locate concealed stolen integrated circuits and can verify, via the serial number, that the property in question is indeed stolen. Additionally or alternatively, the Tuttle method of serial-number-encoding allows semiconductor manufacturers to perform inventory functions without having to rely on bar code labels (which are apparently too big for most integrated circuit packages to accommodate).

a message conveying the stored serial number in response to a predetermined RF interrogation signal.[2] To locate suspected stolen integrated circuit, security personnel position an interrogator transceiver near the suspected location of the integrated circuits, point the antenna of the interrogator transceiver toward the suspected location, and operate a switch which causes the interrogator transceiver to transmit an RF signal encoded with a predetermined interrogation message. When integrated circuits receive the interrogation message, they respond and identify themselves. When monitoring inventories, warehouse personnel would perform similar steps to determine inventory information.

In contrast, applicant's invention is concerned with the transfer of initial configuration information to wireless communication devices so that they can be properly configured prior to their introduction into a wireless network system. More particularly, applicant's invention is concerned with accomplishing this transfer without requiring the device to be fully assembled, operational, powered up, and/or removed from its packaging. To this end, the present invention provides a wireless communication device comprising a transceiver for communicating in a wireless network, a processor for controlling operations of the transceiver based on initial configuration information, a passive tag for receiving the initial configuration information from an external source, and an interface for enabling the processor to access the initial configuration information stored in the memory when the wireless communication device is in an operational mode. The initial configuration information is transmitted from a source external to the wireless communication device so as to be received by the passive tag and stored in a non-volatile memory within the passive tag while the wireless communication device is otherwise in a non-operational mode.

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2. Because the invention transmits its identifying number in response to RF interrogation, law enforcement or security personnel can use an RF interrogator transceiver to detect concealed, stolen integrated circuits. For inventory tracking, the invention permits a large number of integrated circuit inventory items to be tracked by a remotely located interrogator transceiver. In contrast, conventional inventory tags require the tag to be held very close to a scanner such as a bar code reader for individual scanning of each inventory item.

It is respectfully submitted that Tuttle does not show or suggest the claimed invention. To the extent that there is any interface between the Tuttle "main" circuit and its "ID" circuit, this interface is only for the purposes of decrypting and/or validating the serial number. Accordingly, Tuttle's "main" circuit does not control "operations" based on the serial number stored in the "ID" circuit, much less comprise a processor for controlling operations of a transceiver based on initial configuration information as set forth in claims 1-8 and added claims 17 - 20. Tuttle also does not teach transmitting the serial number from an external source[3] and thus does not show or suggest the step of transmitting the initial configuration information from a source external to the wireless communication device so as to be received by the passive tag as set forth in claims 9-16.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the present application is believed to be in a condition for allowance and an early indication to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Should a petition for an Extension of Time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary) petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988, Order No. TELNP0163US.

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3. Tuttle instead teaches that "[t]he ID number memory 3 preferably is configured during manufacture of the integrated circuit 10 or 20 so as to store a number which identifies the I.C. 10 or 20. For example, the identifying number can be a customer number, model number, or production batch number. More preferably, however, the identifying number is a serial number which uniquely identifies each integrated circuit 10 or 20 so that no two I.C.'s have the same serial number. Preferably, the memory 3 can store a number having enough bits to allow a unique serial number to be assigned to every integrated circuit 10 or 20 incorporating the invention which is expected to be manufactured for many years."

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING (37 CFR 1.8a)

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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Marian E. Vasquez

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